GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2790
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2017
Fresh Auction of Spectrum
Arunmozhithevan Shri A.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to auction 5G spectrum in the upcoming round of spectrum auction and if so, the details thereof including the estimated amount likely to be realized therein and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate support to all the participants of the said auction and maintain a level playing field for all;

(c) whether no player evinced interest in the auction of 700 Megahertz band and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor including the complaints registered from the telecom companies with regard to the auction price; and

(d) whether the Government has proposed to perform a fresh round of auction in the said band and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) Auction of spectrum is a continuous process. The Government has made a reference to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for providing recommendations for auction of spectrum in various frequency bands for the upcoming round of auction. Recommendations from TRAI is awaited.

It is further added that the Government auctions spectrum without specifying any technology, subject to the condition that the technology deployed by the TSP is the one approved by international organization like ITU or by the Department of Telecom (DoT). It is for TSPs to deploy the technology within the spectrum acquired by them which best serves market demands.

(b) The Government had ensured level playing fields to all the participants in the spectrum auction held so far and would remain committed to do so in the future auctions also.

(c) Based on the TRAI recommendations "Valuation and Reserve Price of Spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz Bands" dated 27.1.2016, a total of 35+35 MHz spectrum in the block size of 5+5 MHz in 700 MHz band was put to auction in all the 22 Licensed Service Areas(LSAs) in the spectrum auction held in October 2016. No bid was received in any of the 22 LSAs in 700 MHz. Representations of some of the TSPs such as M/s Vodafone India Limited, and COAI were received in the Department of Telecom regarding higher Reserve Price for 700 MHz band. Expensive ecosystem in 700 MHz band together with industry perception of high reserve price appears to be the main reason for no bids in the 700 MHz band. In addition, companies appeared to be preserving cash to protect market share in the days to come.

(d) 700 MHz band has also been included in the above reference, which has been sent to TRAI.
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